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24 October 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ORE

From: Special Staff

Subject: National Intelligence Estimates

References: DCI 4/1, 5 February 1948, National Intelligence Objectives  
DCI 4/2, 28 September 1950, Priority List of Critical  
National Intelligence Objectives

The following substantive intelligence questions of critical importance are suggested as subjects of national intelligence estimates:

1. What changes have occurred since June 1950 in the military posture of the USSR and in the industrial and quasi-military activities related to Soviet war-readiness? Do developments since June indicate merely a continuation of earlier trends in war-readiness? If so, what progress has been made? What has happened regarding preparations for operations in specific local areas? Are there any indications of any curtailment of military preparations? Are there any indications of all-out mobilization on a scale much greater than heretofore?

2. What weaknesses exist in the political, social, and economic structure of the USSR? How effective is the Soviet governmental and police control system in neutralizing these weaknesses? How would the existence of a state of war affect the possibility of exploitation of these weaknesses by foreign forces?

3. What is the magnitude of the power complex developing in the European Satellite countries? Is it, or is it likely to become, a serious threat to the security of the Western Powers? To what extent could the Satellite armies be considered a reliable military force? Are they capable, both tactically and logistically, of conducting operations in nominal independence of the USSR? To what extent would Satellite political regimes be willing and able to act under Soviet direction? What would happen to their existing control over the population of their countries under such circumstances? How does this development of the European Satellites affect the planned magnitude of the NATO program and the US capability to carry out its military commitments in Western Europe and the Near East?

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4. How critical is the Central European area (Germany and Austria) in the world balance of power? What are Soviet strategic objectives in Central Europe as a whole? Is there a long-range program designed to achieve these objectives? Are Soviet policies on Central European issues determined in a coordinated way or on a local, ad hoc basis? Are they rigid or flexible? What is the relationship between Soviet policies in Germany, Austria and those for Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and Western Europe?

5. What resources would the USSR gain in the conquest of Western Europe and the Middle East? To what extent could these resources be captured undamaged? What would be the cost to the USSR in terms of losses of military manpower, expenditures of economic resources, and damage caused by US strategic bombardment? What problems would the USSR encounter in the USSR, the Satellites and Western Europe during the operation, and subsequent to it in attempting to utilize and hold the conquered area?

6. What are the future military capabilities of the Western European countries in the light of present NATO programs? What are the prospects for the implementation of these programs in view of the political, psychological, and economic difficulties involved?

7. To what extent are Far Eastern countries aligning themselves with the US or the USSR in international affairs? How would they align themselves in event of open war? To what extent will Asian alignments be determined by nationalism, reaction against Western colonialism, economic needs? What are Soviet objectives in the Far East? What are the prospects for expansion of Communist control in the Far East through the efforts of local Communist forces?

8. To what extent can China follow a course of action that is arrived at and executed without regard for the wishes of the USSR? If the capability exists, to what extent does China actually adopt an independent course of action? What is the precise nature and extent of Soviet activities and control devices in China? On what important issues do the national interests of China and the USSR coincide, and on what important issues do they conflict?

9. How do Indian political leaders conceive the future of Asia and India's position in Asia? What is India's attitude toward the power-conflict between the USSR and the West? How representative of Indian political attitudes is the present Government of India? What indications do Indians think they see of continuing Western imperialism in [REDACTED] Do Indian leaders consider that

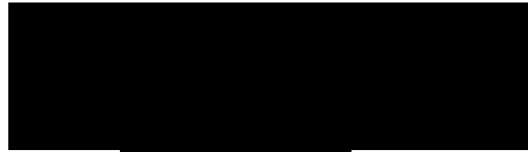
the Far East?

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there is a basic conflict between Communism and Asian nationalism?  
What are the determining factors in India's relations with the  
Chinese Communist regime?

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REMARKS: The attached was hand-carried to OS/RE.

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